

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01640 201934Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 201913Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6015

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01640

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI BELIEVES DETENTE NOT IN QUESTION

1. SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 20,
QUAI SOVIET SECTION CHIEF TREMEAU DISTINCTLY DISCOUNTED
"ALARMIST" PRESS ANALYSES TO EFFECT THAT KREMLIN
CURRENTLY CONDUCTING BASIC POLICY REVIEW OF DETENTE,
MOTIVATED IN PART BY IMPUTED CRISIS IN BREZHNEV'S
HEALTH. END SUMMARY

2. IN QUAI'S VIEW, SOVIET REJECTION US TRADE AGREEMENT
REFLECTED KREMLIN DECISION AIMED AT SPECIFIC BILATERAL
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PAGE 02 PARIS 01640 201934Z

US-USSR PROBLEMS WHICH HAD RECENTLY BEEN AGGRAVATED BY

SOME MEMBER OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. HOWEVER, MOSCOW, AT SAME TIME, WENT TO SOME PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NEITHER DETENTE AS SUCH NOR BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL AUTHORITY WERE BEING QUESTIONED. THUS, QUAI WAS STRUCK BY ANNOUNCEMENT OF EARLY RESUMPTION OF US-USSR SALT TALKS, VIRTUALLY IN TANDEM WITH SOVIET RENUNCIATION U.S. TRADE AGREEMENT. QUAI ALSO IMPRESSED BY CONTINUING SOVIET STATEMENTS AIMED AT REASSURING WORLD THAT DETENTE AS SUCH WAS NOT IN QUESTION. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CRISES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IN VIET NAM AND ELSEWHERE, QUAI'S "KREMLINOLOGISTS" THEREFORE CONTINUE TO TAKE CONSERVATIVE VIEW IN REJECTING PROGNOSSES POSITING ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN GENERAL SOVIET POLICY. QUAI CONTINUES TO BELIEVE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CSCE WILL PROCEED FAIRLY SPEEDILY, ALONG GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE LINES.

3. AS FOR BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL ROLE, QUAI'S SOVIET EXPERTS CONTINUE TO THINK (PARIS 82L NOTAL) THAT HE HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SOME INTERNAL CRITICISM AND IS SUFFERING FROM SEVERE FATIGUE, POSSIBLY COMPLICATED BY GRIPPE OR CARDIOVASCULAR PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, IN THEIR VIEW, BREZHNEV STILL ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF THE POLITBURO, WHICH CONTINUES TO ASSURE HIM FREQUENT AND CORDIAL PRESS ATTENTION. HE MAY THEREFORE, WILL STAY OFFICE, BARRING NEW EVENTS AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT PARTY CONGRESS.

4. ASKED ABOUT THE HARSH ANTI-US DECLARATION ISSUED JANUARY 17 BY 20 EUROPEAN CP'S (PARIS 1438 NOTAL) TREMEAU THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A MOSCOW-INSPIRED TACTICAL MOVE, BUT, AT THIS STAGE AT LEAST, WAS NOT BEING INTERPRETED IN THE QUAI AS SIGNALLING ACROSS-THE-BOARD HARDENING OF SOVIET EAST-WEST ATTITUDES.
RUSH

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